

REMARKS

The office action of February 7, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Pla et al.

Claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Pla et al.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Pla et al. in view of Shuttleworth and Flentje.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Pla et al., it can be seen that this patent discloses a sensor matching through source modeling and output compensation. Pla et al. only deal with a test arrangement in which the speaker and the

microphone are adjusted relative to each other in a closed housing. The test arrangement can exclusively be used for adjusting the microphone, not however for the actual operation for receiving speech, music, etc., the microphones are completely partitioned from the surrounding environment.

The present invention does not deal with matching the individual pressure transducers of the array to each other, but instead tests the functional capability of each individual pressure transducer or each individual filter (by comparison with stored "model signals"). The individual "model signals" take into account the existing spacing and direction of the pressure transducer to the "loudspeaker" and have a corresponding form. In contrast to Pla et al., the array microphone of the present invention does not require a special test arrangement or device because the testing of the functional capability of the individual pressure transducers of the inventive array microphones can take place during normal operation or can be in a built-in position (conference table, dashboard, etc.). This makes it possible to use periodic pseudo noise signals whereby undesired acoustic disturbances (i.e. background noise) identified and their influence can be eliminated by the testing of the individual pressure transducer.

In Pla et al., in contrast, there is no disclosure of a periodic noise signal as a test signal.

Also, in Pla et al. the signals from the individual microphones are not compared or with a stored model signal. Instead one microphone system (microphone and filter) is matched to the other. Applicant submits that the passage cited by the Examiner simply states that the matching of the filtered microphone signal is carried out until the signal is within a predetermined value range. However, this does not mean that the read-out signals are compared with model signals, as in the presently claimed invention.

Due to use of the periodic noise signal the claimed invention can be used even with extremely bad signal to noise characteristics. Thus, the present invention does not need a closed-off acoustic environment as do Pla et al.

Furthermore, the present invention does not need a calibrated microphone as a reference, as is required by Pla et al.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted

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that the rejection of claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the above-discussed reference are overcome and should be withdrawn.

The remaining references have also been considered. Applicant submits that they add nothing to the teachings of Pla et al. so as to teach the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

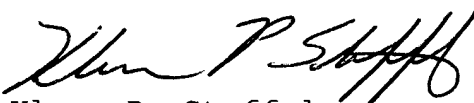
Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

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Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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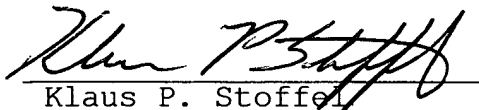
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Dated: May 7, 2008

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 7, 2008.

By:


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Date: May 7, 2008